

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

BOOMSNUB/AIRCO
Vancouver, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

April 2001

Boomsnub/Airco Cleanup project making good progress

An EPA Removal Cleanup team moved on-site to clean up chromium and lead contaminated soil remaining at the Boomsnub/Airco Superfund Site on March 19. As of April 6, approximately 1,475 cubic yards of contaminated soil had been removed from the site from 10 of the 15 identified areas with high levels of contamination. On-Scene Coordinator Michael Szerlog estimates a total of 2,000 cubic yards of soil will need to be excavated from the site. "We want to complete this removal action quickly, because this site was identified as a high priority in Washington State," Szerlog emphasized. The cleanup is expected to be finished in approximately two weeks.



One of the first activities completed by the team was preparing a staging site for temporary storage of contaminated soil as it is excavated from the site. The contaminated soil is then transported and disposed of at the EPA approved hazardous waste disposal site in Hillsboro, Oregon. All soil with more than 400 parts per million (ppm) of total chromium and 1000 ppm

of lead is being removed from the site. Clean fill material is brought in as part of the restoration effort. Removal of these hazardous wastes will allow the property to be returned to productive industrial use in the future.



A mobile testing laboratory is currently located on site to conduct tests as the removal progresses. These tests allow the EPA Removal Cleanup Team to identify "hot spots" where contamination is concentrated and determine the extent of contamination at the site. "By having the lab in the field, we are able to save both time and money", said Szerlog.

Working on this removal action are the EPA, the United States Coast Guard Strike Team, Emergency and Rapid Response Services contractors, Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team contractors, and Environmental Sampling and Assistance Team contractors. A total of 15 people make up this cleanup team.

An Additional Area of Contamination Identified

During the recent confirmation sampling, EPA found one area of contamination that was not identified during the previous sampling event. This area was located in front of the groundwater treatment system building buried under asphalt and concrete. In order to access the area, EPA had to remove two awnings attached to the treatment system and several feet of concrete and asphalt. The contaminated soil was removed and stored for transportation off site to the disposal facility.



Dump truck causes power outage

On Friday, March 30, a truck delivering clean backfill to the Boomsnub site accidentally hit an overhead powerline when he pulled forward from the dumping site with his truck bed in the extended position. The downed lines resulted in a two-hour power outage that affected approximately 50 businesses and residences along N.E. 47th Avenue. "The EPA tries to be a good neighbor while we are working in the community and we extend our sincere apologies to everyone who was affected by this incident," stated EPA On-Scene Coordinator Michael Szerlog. The power outage started at approximately 12:00 p.m. Clark County Utilities repaired the damaged powerlines and restored power at 1:50 p.m.

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